

January 7, 2005

Mr. Paul A. Marshall  
CA Department of Water Resources  
Bay-Delta Office  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am a native son of California. The fish and other aquatic resources of California and the habitat upon which they all depend are a Public Trust, held by the State on behalf of its people.

I am concerned about the future of the Delta, its resources and ecosystem. I am writing to make you aware of my opposition to the actions proposed in the draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). The SDIP is another attempt by the State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Project to pump / divert additional water from the already severely compromised Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta- Bay Estuary.

The various modifications including dredging, barrier construction, and channel alignment will eventual lead to increased pumping for additional water exports. The SDIP will only worsen the Delta Ecosystem Crash / Collapse. This SDIP is really a single purpose project for exporting more water from the already severely compromised Delta -Bay Estuary. The measures proposed by your Department of Water Resources, will benefit special interests such as Westlands Water District. This additional water will in turn cause more leaching of selenium from the saline - seleniferous soils on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley.

I request the following: Withdraw the EIR/EIS for the SDIP. Reduce pumping rates and water exports to those that existed during the 1998 to 2002 when Delta Smelt appeared to be on the road to recovery. Increase ecosystem restoration measures. Improve water quality. Ensure that the ecosystem of the Bay-Delta, including its fish resources, is restored to a high level and self-sustaining populations, before you consider exporting more Delta water (its lifeblood) from the Bay-Delta.

The Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta –Bay Estuary is a treasure appreciated by all Californians. As California's Water Plan demonstrates, our water needs can be met for several more decades through conservation, reclamation, efficiency, and conjunctive use.

Sincerely,



Felix E. Smith  
4720 Talus Way  
Carmichael, CA 95608

Cc: interested parties